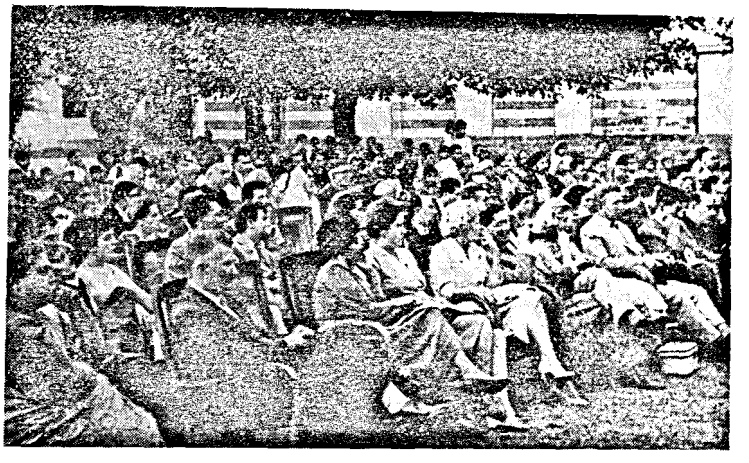
Receptions Given By Akademi

Folk-Dance Party of Yugoslavia



Members of the Cultural Delegation of Yugoslavia enjoying a performance arranged by the Akademi in their honour

ON December 14, 1959 the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, welcomed at Jaipur House the Folk Dance party of Yugoslavia, which visited the capital and gave preformances for a few days in the city. The Akademi presented the troupe a few of its publications. The Yugoslavian Ambassador was present at the function.

Smt. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, Vice-President of the Akademi, welcoming the troupe, said that the Yugoslavian artists, who came here, brought freshness along with them, and this was one of the most vital and forceful ways through which we could learn our culture and we felt and understood ourselves. She hoped that the cultural troupe would have a very memorable memories.

Thanking the Sangeet Natak Akademi for welcoming the troupe, Madam Olga Skovran, leader of the delegation, said that the members of the Yugoslavian Folk Dance party were very happy to visit India, the old country of ancient art and culture, and the cultural relations of different countries were the best way to retain friendship.

Madam (Prof.) Mirka Pavlovich, musicologist of Indian music, acted as an interpreter, and explained the themes of the dance items to the distinguished visitors.

A neat programme of Indian dances was presented before the distinguished guests. The programme included—Bhangra folk dance of Punjab by Shri Rana and his troupe, Kathakali by Guru Gopi Nath, demonstrating the nine Rasas and gestural illustrations, another Kathakali ballet—*Bhasmasura-Mohini* by Guru Gopi Nath, Sundernarayan, Radha Krishnan and Uma Sharma, and Kathak dance by Shri Brijmohan Maharaj, executing *Vishnu Vandana*, *That*, *Amad*, *Tukra*, *Paran*, *Gat*, *Gat-Bhav* (*Holi* and *Kaliya Daman*), *Tarana* and *Tatkar*. The artists enacted their roles superbly and were highly applauded.

Dance and Song Ensemble from Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam

The Sangeet Natak Akademi gave a reception on December 9, 1959 to the Dance and Song Ensemble from Democratic Republic

of Viet-Nam, which came to India at the invitation of the Government of India.

The function was held at Jaipur House lawns and it was attended by a large number of artists and art lovers.

The troupe consisting of fortyfive members, was received by Kumari Nirmala Joshi, Secretary of the Akademi.

A programme of music and dance was organised on the occasion. The programme included Sarod recital by Ustad Hafiz Ali Khan, assisted by his son, Master Amjad Ali, on the Sarod; a duet Kathak number by Shri Birju Maharaj and Smt. Kumudini Lakhia and a group folk dance, entitled "*Ghumar*" of Rajasthan, directed by Kumari Maya Rao. One of the musicians of the Viet-Nam group played on a guitar-like instrument.

The Viet-Namese Ensemble gave a presentation of ten gramophone records to the Akademi, which presented a few of its publications to them.

President of Vienna Academy of Music

A reception was extended on 3rd April 1960 by the Akademi to Dr. Hans Sittner, President of the Vienna Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and Mrs. Sittner, at the premises of the National School of Drama (4, Jaipur Eatate, Nizamuddin East), in which a few officials of the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs and several prominent local artists were present.

The guests were received by Smt. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay and were taken round to an exhibition of model stages, especially arranged for the purpose, showing the development of Indian stage from ancient times.

The programme included recitals on *Sarod* by Ustad Hafiz Ali Khan, and his son, Master Amjad Ali, and a *Bharat Natyam* dance item by Kumari C.V.S. Vasantha. Ustad Hafiz Ali Khan played *Multani* and *Zila Ragas*. The two *Sarod* players were accompanied by Shri Hashmat Ali on *Tabla*. Kumari Vasanta demonstrated *Alarippu*, *Thillana* and *Padam*.

Members of the Cultural Delegation from Vietnam inspecting Indian musical instruments just after a show held by the Akademi in their honour

Delegates of Theatre Architecture Symposium

The delegates participating in the symposium on theatre architecture, organised by the Bhartiya Natya Sangh, an affiliate body of the International Theatre Institute, and a recognised institute of the Akademi, were received by the Akademi on Feb. 29 at its premises, 4-A, Mathura Road.

The party, among others, was attended by Smt. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, Vice-President of the Akademi, a number of architects, playwrights, producers, and directors of the stage and experts in acoustics, lighting and air-conditioning.